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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/938,626	08/24/2001	Gregory G. Walther	VISA-1-1002	2346

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BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM, PLLC  
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SEATTLE, WA 98104

EXAMINER
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CORRIELUS, JEAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

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DATE MAILED: 02/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/938,626

**Applicant(s)**

WALTHER, GREGORY G.

**Examiner**

Jean M Corrielus

**Art Unit**

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_                      6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to the application filed on August 24, 2001, in which claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

### ***Drawings***

2. Applicants are required to furnish the formal drawings in response this office action. No new matter may be introduced in the required drawing. Failure to timely submit a drawing will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b).

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Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Meltzer et al., (hereinafter "Meltzer") US Patent no. 6,366,925.

As to claim 1, Meltzer discloses the claimed "a user interface component that receives user requests" as a query interface in which the client can post inquiries to the legal services (col.2, lines 30-32, col.3, lines 16-17); "a logic component for controlling the processing of the immigration related data" engaging the legal service provider to perform a legal service and processing an immigration data by a service provider (col.2, lines 34-35, and 53-54); "a data access component for creating the connections to the database table" database information in which a legal services provider has been engaged by providing access the access provider account (col.3, lines 58-60; col.5, lines 5-21); and "a server component for accessing and storing the data in the database tables" as a means for accessing information in the database (col.3, lines 61-65; col.5, lines 3-5).

As to claim 5, Meltzer discloses the claimed "displaying a home screen" (col.6, lines 55-65); "receiving one or more requests related to immigration case management, and in response to the requests displaying the results of the requests associated with the processing of immigration information" (col.3, lines 6-24; col.4, lines 17-22; col.11, lines 5-55); and "managing immigration cases" (col.5, lines 29-35; col.8, lines 7-61).

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As to claim 6, Meltzer discloses the claimed "status document" as listing matters for which the legal services provider has been engaged and data including the status of such matters (col.3, lines 21-24).

As to claim 7, Meltzer discloses the claimed "receiving a request to add new article and in response to the request receiving and storing information associated with the new article" (col.6, lines 55-65; col.9, lines 30-60).

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-4 and 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meltzer et al., (hereinafter "Meltzer") US Patent no. 6,177,936 in view of view of Singer et al (hereinafter "Singer") US Patent no. 6,183,140.

As to claims 2-4, Meltzer discloses substantially the invention as claimed. However, Meltzer does not explicitly disclose a database management method in SQL, VISUAL BASIC and MSJET. On the other hand, Singer discloses a database management method in SQL, VISUAL BASIC and MSJET (col.12, lines 35-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing, at the time the present invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references, wherein

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the response page provided to a client (see Meltzer's fig.6) would incorporate the use of a database management method in SQL, VISUAL BASIC and MSJET, in the same conventional manner as described by Singer (col.12, 35-67). Specifically, the ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated to do such a combination because that would provide Meltzer's system the enhanced capability of helping to simplify updating and maintaining the expert knowledge data.

As to claims 8-11, Meltzer discloses substantially the invention as claimed. However, Meltzer does not explicitly disclose an article comprises a person, an organization a project, a status document, a site; and a page and defining a project by assigning events, timeline, target and actual dates and next actions. On the other hand, Singer discloses the use of an article comprises a person, an organization a project, a status document, a site; and a page and defining a project by assigning events, timeline, target and actual dates and next actions (col.14, lines 17-33, 45-50, 60-67; col.15, line 43-col.16, line 15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing, at the time the present invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because that would provide Meltzer's system the enhanced capability of helping to simplify updating and maintaining the expert knowledge data.

As to claims 12-16, Meltzer discloses substantially the invention as claimed "wherein the assigning an event to a project further comprises an event for when a project is first opened, proceeded with preparation for filing; filed; decision is received on a project; and closed". Singer, on the other hand,

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discloses the claimed wherein the assigning an event to a project further comprises an event for when a project is first opened (col.13, lines 55-60), proceeded with preparation for filing (col.12, lines 3-5); filed; decision is received on a project (col.14, lines 2-7); and closed (col.14, lines 44-55". It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing, at the time the present invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because that would provide Meltzer's system the enhanced capability of helping to simplify updating and maintaining the expert knowledge data.

#### *Conclusion*

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or early communication from the Examiner should directed to **Jean Corrielus** whose telephone number is (703) 306-3035. The Examiner can normally be reached on the weekdays from 7:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **Kim Vu**, can be reached on (703)305-9343.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231** or faxed to:

**(703) 872-9306**, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**Or:**

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**(703) 872-9306** (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **Crystal Park II, 2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington.**

**VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Corrielus', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jean M. Corrielus

Patent Examiner

January 23, 2004